Biodegradation of Textile Dye by Using *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* GRIRKNM11 Isolated from Dye Polluted Site

N. Manikandan, S. Surumbar Kuzhali and R. Kumuthakalavalli*

*Department of Biology, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamilnadu, India

**Abstract**

Synthetic dyes are widely used in textile, paper, food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. The textile industry accounts for two thirds of the total dyestuff market. During dyeing process approximately 10-15% of the dyes used are released into the wastewater. In the present study *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* GRIRKNM11 isolated and sequenced from the textile dye effluent site was able to decolorize the turquoise blue dye (100 mg/L) within 48 h at 37°C and pH 7.0. Decolorisation was assayed using spectrophotometry and products formed during degradation were characterized through FTIR spectra.

**Keywords:** *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*, RKNM11; FTIR; Turquoise blue dye

**Introduction**

Textile industry is one of the greatest generators of liquid effluent pollutants due to the high quantities of water used in the dyeing processes. There are more than 10⁵ kinds of commercially available dyes with over 7×10⁵ tonnes of dyestuff produced annually and it is estimated that 2,80,000 tones of textile dyes are discharged from such industrial effluent every year worldwide [1]. Almost 10% of the total amount of dyes used is found in the wastewater disposed from such industries [2]. The effluents from these industries are complex, containing a wide variety of dye products such as dispersants, acids, bases, salts, detergents and oxidants. Discharge of these colored effluents into the rivers and lakes reduce dissolved oxygen concentration, thus creating anoxic conditions that are lethal to resident organisms [3]. Dyes present in textile wastewater cause not only aesthetic problems but also threat to public health [4]. Most of the liquid and solid effluents from textile industries are treated by physical and chemical methods such as flocculation, adsorption, filtration and oxidation. Most of the physical methods, however, simply accumulate and concentrate dyes and create solid wastes, and so the problem of disposal still exists and chemical approaches like using natural adsorbents for removal of heavy metal oxidation with either peroxide or ozone are some of the attractive solutions for metal remediation [5]. However biological processes provide an alternative to existing technologies since they are more cost-effective, environment friendly, and do not produce large quantities of sludge [6]. Many microorganisms belonging to different taxonomic groups of bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes and algae have been reported for their ability to decolorize dyes [7].

**Materials and Methods**

**Screening of decolourization**

Soil samples from the textile dye effluent polluted sites were collected (10% W/V). Microorganisms from these soil samples were isolated using the screening medium comprised of yeast extract 30 g, NaCl 3.0 g and peptone 0.5 g in 1 litre of distilled water with 0.1 g of turquoise blue dye, inoculated and incubated at 37°C under static condition and the pH was adjusted to 7.0 for 48 hrs. The broth of the decolourised culture was then transferred to a fresh screening medium to screen strains that has colour removal ability. The screening procedures were conducted repeatedly with screening medium until an efficient decolorising culture appeared.

Later 0.1 ml aliquot of the isolated culture was spread on a nutrient agar medium and incubated at 37°C for 48 h. Colonies surrounded by decolourised zone were selected. Isolates were once again tested for their color removal ability in emulsified culture and promising isolate was selected and its stock culture was maintained for further studies [8].

**Identification**

Bacterial isolate with the higher decolourisation efficiency was first identified by biochemical methods and further identification was performed through rDNA sequencing.

**Decolorization experiments**

In order to examine decolourisation potential of the isolated bacterial strain [9], the screening medium was added with 100 mg/l of turquoise blue dye inoculated with 5% V/V of 24 h old bacterial culture (1.2×10⁵); the pH was adjusted to 7 incubated at 37°C and for 48 h. The aliquots (3 ml) of culture media were withdrawn at different time intervals, centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 10 min. Decolorisation was monitored by measuring the absorbance of culture supernatant at 583 nm using UV spectrophotometer.

The decolorization activity was expressed in terms of the percentage decolorization:

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\text{Decolorization activity (\%)} = \left( \frac{[A] - [B]}{[A]} \right) \times 100
\]

[A] - Initial absorbance

[B] - Final absorbance

**Optimization**

To study the optimisation of temperature, pH and concentration
of dye on decolourisation in static condition, the nutrient medium was added with 100 mg of dye inoculated with 5 ml of 24 h old bacterial culture and incubated at different temperatures such as 28°C, 30°C, 37°C, 40°C and 45°C at different pH such as 5, 7, 9 and inoculated with the bacterial strain as discussed earlier. Percentage of decolourisation at different concentration of dye such as 100, 500, 1000 mg/l was measured at different time intervals (12 h) for 48 h as discussed earlier. All experiments were performed in three sets along with control without the bacterial strain [10].

Heavy metal analysis

After 48 h of incubation, 2 ml of treated dye effluent was taken in a boiling tube and was digested using 10 ml of triple acid solution (HNO₃, H₂SO₄ and HClO₄ in 9:2:1 proportion respectively) till the effluent becomes colorless [11]. The digested sample was filtered using whatmann number 1 filter paper for two times made upto 50 ml and subjected for heavy metal assay using Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy. By comparing the performance of with the treatment, the results were analyzed.

Infrared spectrum analysis

The control (non degraded dye) and treated samples (degraded) were dried, mixed with KBr (1:20:0.02 g of sample with KBr at a final weight of 0.4 g) [12]. The samples were then ground, desorbed at 65°C for 20h and pressed to obtain IR-transparent pellets. The absorbance FT-IR spectrum analysis was done through Perkin –Elmer spectrometer. The spectra were collected within the range of 400 to 4000 cm⁻¹. The FT-IR was first calibrated for background signal scanning with a control sample of pure KBr, and then the experimental samples were scanned. The FT-IR spectrum of the control was subtracted from the spectra of the non-degraded and degraded dyes.

Results and Discussion

Microorganism isolation and culture conditions

Based on the screening experiment for decolorising turquoise blue dye, five bacterial strains namely A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 were isolated from polluted soil and A4 strain showed maximum clear zone plate and was sub cultured in liquid medium under static condition. Environmental biotechnology relies upon the pollutant degrading capacities of naturally occurring microbial consortium in which bacteria plays a central role Liu and Stolz [13,14]. Bacterial flora of the dye contaminated soil was dominated with Pseudomonas sp. (30.0%) followed by Bacillus sp. (20.0%), Bacillus, Achromobacter sp. (13.3%) and Micrococcus sp (13.3%) and Actinomyces (20.0%). Stated that decolourisation of acid orange was 90% within 24 hrs under static condition by using Pseudomonas sp. [10]. Under static condition electrons are available to azoreductase from NADH to decolorize azo dye.

Strain identification and characterization

Microscopic observation of the A4 strain cells exhibited G-ve rod-shaped cells. On biochemical investigations this strain showed aerobic, motile, oxidase and catalase +ve, non lactose fermentation. Molecular studies revealed its characterisation as 16S rDNA amplification has 1414 bp nucleotides in length identified as Achromobacter xylosoxidans and this 16S rDNA nucleotide sequence has been deposited in Genbank and assigned accession number JN 624743 (Achromobacter xylosoxidans GRIRKNM11).

Comparison of 16S rDNA sequences with sequences deposited in NCBI showed that isolate strain was most closely related to a cultured bacterium Achromobacter sp. clone F3feb50.16S ribosomal RNA gene partial sequence shown sequence similarity of 99%. The phylogenetic tree showed the grouping of Achromobacter sp. (Figure 1).

Decolorization experiments

The decolorization potential of Achromobacter xylosoxidans in nutrient broth medium at different time intervals 12, 24, 36 and 48 h was studied. The selected bacterial isolate was found to be potential enough to decolorize the dye. The effect of decolorisation was increased with increase in time. The decolorization rate of Achromobacter xylosoxidans in 48 h was maximum (i.e) 61.24 ± 0.45% (Figure 2).

Optimization of dye decolorization at different temperature, pH and concentration

The decolorization efficiency of Achromobacter xylosoxidans at different temperature, pH and concentration of dye was studied. There was as increasing trend of decolorization with increase of time and temperature. However there was a decreasing trend from 38°C to 45°C (Figure 3). The decolorization rate of Achromobacter xylosoxidans at 48 h and at 37°C was maximum i.e 58.57 + 0.47%.

The optimum temperature for Achromobacter xylosoxidans for
maximum decolorisation was recorded as 37°C. The decolorization activity of the culture was found to increase with increase in incubation temperature from 25°C to 37°C with maximum activity attained at 37°C. Further increase in temperature above 40°C resulted in marginal decrease in decolorization activity. Similar observation was reported for the degradation of Disperse Blue 79 and Acid Orange 10 by Bacillus fusiformis KMK5 [15]. Decline in decolorization activity at higher temperature can be attributed to the loss of viability or to the denaturation of the azoreductase enzyme [16].

The decolorisation percentage of Achromobacter xylosoxidans in nutrient broth medium with different pH 5, 7 and 9 at different time intervals 12, 24, 36 and 48 h was studied. pH of the medium has influenced the rate of decolorisation. There is an increasing rate of decolorisation from pH 5 to pH 7. At pH 7.0 the decolorization rate of Achromobacter xylosoxidans during 48 h incubation was maximum (i.e) 56.32 ± 0.47 (Figure 4). Decolorisation efficiency was high at pH range of 7-9 by using Pseudomonas aeruginosa NCIM 102. Majority of the azo dye reducing bacterial species reported dye reducing pH as 7 [17].

The decolorisation percentage of Achromobacter xylosoxidans in nutrient broth medium with different dye concentration viz 100 mg, 500 mg, and 1000 mg at different time intervals 24, 48, and 72 h was studied. Concentration of dye strongly affected decolorisation rate; at increasing concentration rate of decolorisation was decreased. The decolorization rate of Achromobacter xylosoxidans at 48 h was maximum at 100 mg (i.e) 58.57 ± 0.47 (Figure 5).

**Removal of heavy metal from dye**

Analysis of heavy metals of the dye isolation before and after biological treatment was assessed. In this study Achromobacter xylosoxidans showed the broad spectrum of resistance to heavy metals namely Zn, Cu, Mn, Cr, Pb, Ni and Cd (Figure 6). Among the heavy metals, Pb removal by Achromobacter xylosoxidans was found to be maximum after 48 h incubation at 1 ppm concentration. The important processes which may lead to metal removal might be binding of heavy metals to the cell surface or due to the intracellular uptake of the metals [18].

**Infrared spectrum analysis**

Infrared spectroscopy is the study of infrared light with matter [12]. The fundamental measurement obtained in infrared FTIR spectroscopy is in the infrared spectrum, which is a plot of measured infrared intensity versus wavelength (or wave number in cm⁻¹). FTIR spectroscopy is sensitive to the presence of chemical functional groups in the prepared sample. A structural group is a structural fragment within a molecule.

The FTIR spectrum of the dye Turquoise blue dye and degraded products are depicted in (Figure 7a and 7b); with major absorption bands. The FTIR spectrum of 48h extracted metabolites showed significant changes in position of peaks when compared to the control. In 48h, extracted metabolites recorded peak at 3435 cm⁻¹, and 2913 cm⁻¹ and these points are corresponding to -NH-(stretching) in amine group whereas peak at 1586 cm⁻¹ N-H (bending) and 1363 cm⁻¹ these points are corresponding to C-O(stretching). The stretching vibrations between C-N showed bonds at 1171 cm⁻¹. The major peaks appeared in control is sifted and the intensity of the peaks is decreased.

**Conclusion**

This study revealed the molecular identity of bacterial strain Achromobacter xylosoxidans GRIRKNM11 an isolate from dye polluted site and its potentials in bioremediation of textile dyes at optimum temperature, pH and dye concentration. This study also recorded the efficiency of the above strain in the removal of heavy metals.
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References

Figure 7: a, b FTIR analysis of treated and untreated dye by of Achromobacter xylosoxidans at 48 h incubation.